

**Abstract of the Invention**

This invention relates to the discovery that pleiotrophin binds to and activates a pleiotrophin-receptor which is responsible for the events associated with pleiotrophin activity including tumorigenesis, cell proliferation, and cell invasion. By interfering with that association, the cascade of events associated with pleiotrophin activity can be prevented or reversed. Further, by evaluating the effect of different compounds and conditions on the interaction, new drugs and treatments can be identified for use in preventing certain cancers and growth and developmental disorders.

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